

14 November 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director-Comptroller

SUBJECT : Meeting with Richard Harris Smith

1. In the absence of Mr. Houston, who Mr. Richard Harris Smith had tried to reach, Mr. Thuermer and I met with Mr. Smith this afternoon. Mr. Smith is a former CIA employee whose book, OSS: The Secret History of America's First Central Intelligence Agency, has recently been published by the University of California Press.

2. The OSS book has sold quite well, exceeding the publisher's expectations. Their third printing raises the total in hard cover to 10,000 copies. In addition, some five book clubs have taken the book in varying degrees for a total of another 45,000 copies. The paperback rights have been sold to Dell for \$20,000 (against royalties).

3. Mr. Smith credits David Wise's review of his book in the Washington Post for clinching the paperback sale which was hanging in the balance following the unfavorable review it received from Cornelius Ryan in the New York Times. Apropos of David Wise, with whom Smith had talked on the telephone to thank him for his review, he told us that Wise was preparing a book having to do with government secrecy which would include a "blast" at CIA for its role against the McCoy book and Harper and Row.

4. The real purpose of Mr. Smith's visit was to acquaint us with the fact that he had commenced working on a biography of Allen Dulles. He has signed a contract with Coward-McCann to publish it and says he has received a "large" advance (with prospective publication in June 1974). He is aware that he will receive no Agency assistance or access to any Agency files in this connection. However, he does wish to submit the book for security clearance and said he would send us the galleys for such review. We suggested that it would be preferable if he send us a xerox copy of the manuscript which would allow us to review it for security at less cost to himself if any changes

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were needed; and that this also would avoid letting printers, typesetters and others see material which we might wish to suggest be eliminated for security reasons. He took this suggestion under advisement and assured us we would have ample time to review the text.

STAT 5. Mr. Smith said that he was talking to as many ex-Agency people as he could who are in a position to be knowledgeable about Mr. Dulles and his role in CIA. (He has appointments with John Bross and [ ] on 15 November.) He added that he expected to include in his text the names of many former Agency personnel, and that, in his opinion, the name of anyone who had been a Division Chief or Station Chief under Allen Dulles would no longer be subject to security restrictions. We told him that, on the contrary, there might well be situations where this was not true, and that we would feel free to point out any security implications on the use of particular names where their use might still be sensitive. Mr. Smith noted that his Agency employment was so brief, and he was so junior, that he really learned nothing substantial about Mr. Dulles or his work while here. Therefore, nothing which he wrote would come within the terms of his secrecy agreement which bars revealing classified information which he received in the course of his CIA employment. Most of the information which he is receiving on Dulles' CIA career comes from former Agency personnel who are willing to talk with him, but he feels the security problem is theirs and not his. From a legal standpoint, and within the meaning of the Marchetti decision, he is probably correct. Therefore, we can only hope that we can negotiate with Mr. Smith on an amicable basis if there is some real security problem in his manuscript.

6. There is no doubt, that, in the course of writing his book, Mr. Smith will try to be in contact with "hundreds" of people who knew Mr. Dulles in one capacity or another. He said he would not attempt to contact anyone presently within the Agency, but plans to write to some whom he knows will retire in the course of the coming months to say that he will be in touch with them after they retire next spring.

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7. Mr. Smith told us that he had an excellent literary agent Max Becker [presumably Maximilian Becker, 115 East 82nd Street, New York, New York 10028, Telephone: 212-Y08-3887]. Mr. Becker is also the agent for Ladislav Farago and for Michael Bar-Zohar. Smith said that the latter, who has written a book or two on Israeli intelligence exploits, is a member of, or has close ties to, Israeli intelligence, without which no author could write authoratively.

Walter Pforzheimer

cc: Asst. to the DCI	(attn: Mr. Thuerner)
Director of Security	(attn:  )
Chief, CI Staff	(attn:  )
Ex.Sec/SSU	(attn:  )
Mr. Sherman Kent	

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